GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4408
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have not so far implemented disaster management programmes;

(b) if so, the name of States who have not set up State and District Level Disaster Management Mechanism;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such State;

(d) whether a meeting of relief commissioners of various States was held in the recent past; and

(e) if so, the details of various issues discussed and the outcome of said meeting?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)
(a) to (c): The Disaster Management Act, 2005 inter alia provides for measures to be taken by the States/UTs for the purpose of disaster management, constitution of Disaster Management Authorities at the State and district levels, establishment of Disaster Response Funds and Disaster Mitigation Funds at the State and District levels etc. The Central Government has decided to bring these provisions into force in all the States and Union Territories w.e.f. 1st August, 2007. In the meantime, as per the information available, State Disaster Management Authorities have already been set up by Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. At the district level, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra(10 districts), Mizoram, Punjab and Sikkim have constituted District Disaster Management Authorities.

(d) to (e): The Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners/Secretaries, Departments of Disaster Management of States/UTs was held on 23rd April, 2007. The Conference discussed issues relating to the status of preparedness for South-West Monsoon 2007, operation of schemes of Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund, implementation of Disaster Management Act, 2005, Flood forecasting and warning system, role of National Disaster Response Force, role of Armed Forces and Civil Defence in disaster management, National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project etc. The States/UTs were advised to have constant review of their preparedness , maintain close coordination with India Meteorological Department, Central Water Commission, Armed Forces and the concerned agencies of the Central and State Governments located in the State , undertake mock drills and rehearsals to keep the relief machinery in the state of alertness, ensure transparency in relief distribution and identification of beneficiaries, identify critical goods and services needed for relief and enter into pre-contracts with various suppliers or service providers, take action as per the guidelines on preparedness in health sector to prevent occurrence of any epidemic during post-flood situations, accelerate public awareness campaign etc .